



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Police Impersonation Bill Signed by Governor

Sanborn bill makes it a felony to impersonate a police officer in order to commit a crime

(LANSING) – Senator Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond, announced today that Senate Bill 118 has been signed into law by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. SB 118 will amend the Michigan Code of Criminal Procedure so that individuals impersonating a police officer in order to commit another crime could be charged with a felony punishable by up to four years in prison or a fine of up to \$5,000.

Prior to the adoption of SB 118, impersonating a police officer was a misdemeanor violation with time served being concurrent with time for any other offense. The enactment of SB 118 and its companion bill SB 117 will allow judicial discretion in order for prison time to be served consecutively with time for additional crimes.

“This new law represents a win for all the victims in Michigan who have been deceived by someone impersonating a police officer,” Sanborn said. “It is about time we display the seriousness of impersonating an officer of the law and punish those accordingly for taking advantage of Michigan citizens and playing upon the trust of the authorities in order to perpetrate a crime against them.”

Macomb County Sheriff Mark A. Hackel testified before the Senate Judiciary

(MORE)

Committee on February 19 in support of the bill, where it passed unanimously. Sheriff Hackel cited several incidents in Macomb County in which individuals posed as police officers in order to commit a crime. The bill was widely supported by law enforcement organizations and Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox.

Sanborn got national recognition by John Walsh, host of American's Most Wanted and the John Walsh Show, for introducing the legislation. Senator Sanborn appeared on the John Walsh Show on Wednesday, April 9, 2003 where he discussed the importance of the police impersonation bill.

Several law enforcement representatives were present at the bill signing ceremony this morning including representatives from police departments in Armada, Romeo, Richmond, Shelby Township, Chesterfield Township, Memphis, Mount Clemens and the Macomb County Sheriff's Department. Other organizations represented were the Michigan State Police Post #24, Deputy Sheriffs of Michigan, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

Editor's Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Sanborn, Governor Granholm and guests at the bill signing ceremony is available on the Senate photowire at:
<http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire/Sanborn/Sanborn.htm>